

**CLAIM SET AS AMENDED**

1. (Currently Amended) An oil passage structure for an engine, the engine including:

a tensioner arm provided in sliding-contact with a cam chain, the cam chain being adapted to reduce the speed of a crankshaft by half and transmit the resultant power to intake and exhaust camshafts of the engine for driving an intake valve and an exhaust valve of the engine, and;

a screw type lifter having a lifter rod with one end in contact with the tensioner arm, the screw type lifter being provided in a cylinder head of the engine, ~~said oil passage structure comprising:~~

an oil passage formed so as to extend around said cylinder head, oil discharged from an oil pump of the engine being fed through said oil passage,

wherein the camshafts are rotatably supported by a plurality of cam journal walls provided in the cylinder head and a plurality of cam holders fastened to the plurality of cam journal walls, respectively,

wherein said oil passage is formed in such a manner as to pass through sliding-contact portions between said camshafts and one of the plurality of cam journal walls and one of the plurality of cam holders,

wherein said oil passage includes:

a pair of annular grooves surrounding the camshafts, said annular grooves being provided in said one cam journal wall and said one cam holder;

a communication groove for connecting said annular grooves to each other, said communication groove being provided in at least one of joining faces of said one cam journal wall and said one cam holder in said cylinder head; and

a pair of communication passages provided in a straight line in said one cam journal wall in such a manner as to be in communication with said annular grooves, respectively,

wherein a downstream end of said oil passage is in communication with the screw type lifter.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 1, wherein a sub-gallery is provided in a crankcase of the engine in such a manner as to be independent from a main-gallery, said sub-gallery for leading the oil from the oil pump to the oil passage extending around the cylinder head, and said main gallery for leading the oil from the oil pump to portions to be lubricated at least in the crankshaft.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An oil passage structure for an engine, comprising:

a cylinder head of the engine;

a screw type lifter of the engine, the screw type lifter having a housing mounted on the cylinder head; and

an oil passage formed so as to extend around said cylinder head, oil discharged from an oil pump of the engine being fed through said oil passage,

wherein the oil passage extends from the oil pump to an exhaust side camshaft, to an intake camshaft, and then extends outward through the cylinder head and continues in a straight line into a passage formed in the housing of the screw type lifter of the engine,

the passage in the screw type lifter extending from a flange portion of the housing, running at an acute angle with respect to a shaft of the lifter, and ending at an outer end of the shaft of the lifter,

wherein a downstream end of said oil passage is in communication with ~~a~~ the screw type lifter of the engine.

8. (Original) The oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 7, wherein camshafts of the engine are rotatably supported by a plurality of cam journal walls provided in the cylinder head and a plurality cam holders fastened to the plurality of cam journal walls, respectively,

wherein said oil passage is formed in such a manner as to pass through sliding-contact portions between said camshafts and one of the plurality of cam journal walls and one of the plurality of cam holders.

9. (Currently Amended) The oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 8, wherein said oil passage comprises:

a pair of annular grooves surrounding the camshafts, said annular grooves being provided in said one cam journal wall and said one cam holder formed;

a communication groove for connecting said annular grooves to each other, said communication groove being provided in at least one of joining faces of said one cam journal wall and said one cam holder in said cylinder head; and

a pair of communication passages provided in a straight line in said one cam journal wall in such a manner as to be in communication with said annular grooves, respectively.

10. (Currently Amended) The oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 7, wherein a sub-gallery is provided in a crankcase of the engine in such a manner as to be independent from a main-gallery, said sub-gallery for leading the oil from the oil pump to the oil passage extending around the cylinder head, and said main gallery for leading the oil from the oil pump to portions to be lubricated at least in the crankshaft.

11. (Currently Amended) The oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 8, wherein a sub-gallery is provided in a crankcase of the engine in such a manner as to be independent from a main-gallery, said sub-gallery for leading the oil from the oil pump to the oil passage extending around the cylinder head, and said main gallery for leading the oil from the oil pump to portions to be lubricated at least in the crankshaft.

12. (Currently Amended) The oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 9, wherein a sub-gallery is provided in a crankcase of the engine in such a manner as to be independent from a main-gallery, said sub-gallery for leading the oil from the oil pump to the oil passage extending around the cylinder head, and said main gallery for leading the oil from the oil pump to portions to be lubricated at least in the crankshaft

13. (Currently Amended) An oil passage structure for an engine, comprising:  
a cylinder head of the engine;  
a screw type lifter of the engine, the screw type lifter having a housing mounted on  
the cylinder head; and

an oil passage formed so as to extend around said cylinder head, oil discharged from an oil pump of the engine being fed through said oil passage,

wherein the oil passage extends from the oil pump to an exhaust side camshaft, to a an intake camshaft, and then extends outward through the cylinder head and continues in a straight line into a passage formed in to a the housing of the screw type lifter of the engine,

the passage in the screw type lifter extending from a flange portion of the housing, running at an acute angle with respect to a shaft of the lifter, and ending at an outer end of the shaft of the lifter.

14. (Currently Amended) An oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 13, wherein an upward end of the oil passage is in communication with ~~the~~ an exhaust side camshaft and a downward end of the oil passage is in communication with the passage in the screw type lifter.

15. (Previously Presented) An oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 14, wherein the upward end of the oil passage extends in a direction that is parallel to a direction of the downward end of the oil passage.

16. (Currently Amended) An oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 1, wherein the oil passage extends from the oil pump to ~~an~~ the exhaust side camshaft, to ~~a~~ the intake camshaft, and then to ~~a~~ the screw type lifter of the engine.

17. (Currently Amended) An oil passage structure for an engine according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 7, wherein the oil passage extends from the oil pump to ~~an~~ the exhaust side camshaft, to a the intake camshaft, and then to ~~a~~ the screw type lifter of the engine.

18. (New) The oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 13, wherein the camshafts are rotatably supported by a plurality of cam journal walls provided in the cylinder head and a plurality of cam holders fastened to the plurality of cam journal walls, respectively, and

wherein said oil passage is formed in such a manner as to pass through sliding-contact portions between said camshafts and one of the plurality of cam journal walls and one of the plurality of cam holders.

19. (New) The oil passage structure for an engine according to claim 18, wherein said oil passage comprises:

a pair of annular grooves surrounding the camshafts, said annular grooves being provided in said one cam journal wall and said one cam holder;

a communication groove for connecting said annular grooves to each other, said communication groove being provided in at least one of joining faces of said one cam journal wall and said one cam holder to said cylinder head; and

a pair of communication passages provided in a straight line in said one cam journal wall in such a manner as to be in communication with said annular grooves, respectively.

20. (New) An oil passage structure for an engine, comprising:

a tensioner arm provided in sliding-contact with a cam chain, the cam chain being adapted to reduce the speed of a crankshaft by half and transmit the resultant power to intake

and exhaust camshafts of the engine for driving an intake valve and an exhaust valve of the engine;

a lifter having a lifter rod with one end in contact with the tensioner arm, the lifter being provided in a cylinder head of the engine; and

an oil passage formed so as to extend around said cylinder head, oil discharged from an oil pump of the engine being fed through said oil passage,

wherein the camshafts are rotatably supported by a plurality of cam journal walls provided in the cylinder head and a plurality of cam holders fastened to the plurality of cam journal walls, respectively,

wherein said oil passage is formed in such a manner as to pass through a contact portion between one of the plurality of cam journal walls of the cylinder head and one of the plurality of cam holders, said oil passage also passing through sliding-contact portions between said camshafts and one of the plurality of cam journal walls and/or one of the plurality of cam holders, and

wherein a downstream end of the oil passage is in communications with the lifter.